

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
3290 Ad Art Rd • Stockton, CA 95215

Thursday, November 16, 2023 • 11:00 a.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Bill Koster, Jack Hamm, John Herrick, Jim Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Ryan Hansen (Assoc. Director), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS - Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), Joe Takai (NRCS – Stockton), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC), were also in attendance.

GUEST SPEAKER – Mr. Parry Klassen, Valley Water Collaborative

Mr. Parry Klassen, Executive Director of the Valley Water Collaborative, discussed with the group the option of using this organization to help comply with the CV Salts requirements. He discussed the organization structure, general processes and procedures, timelines, and a rough budget. Following his presentation, he answered questions from the group.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the November 16, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Thoming. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from October 12, 2023, was made by Mr. Thoming. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Program Report – Mr. Wackman, following the presentation, recommended to the board they become members of Valley Water Collaborative. Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of joining as well as logistics. Mr. Herrick moved that Mr. Wackman inform the Valley Water Collaborative that the SJ Coalition wishes to join the organization as well and directs staff to work collaboratively with others who join from the basin. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. The motion passed seven to one, with Director Watkins in opposition.
- B. Financial Report – Mr. Koster moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Steering Committee – The program manager’s report was included in the packet.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney and Mr. Wackman reviewed progress regarding the billing for grower 10904. Discussion took place regarding how to handle the late dues/fees, which go back to 2014.
Ms. Watkins moved the SJCRCD write a letter indicating grower 10904 has 5 years to pay their

invoice in full. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koster. The motion passed seven to one, with Mr. Herrick in opposition.

E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman explained the Delta RMP is moving forward.

TREASURER’S & COATLITION FINANCIAL REPORT

All bills for the month were presented. A motion to pay all invoices presented in the packets was made by Mr. Koster. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

A. EQIP and Personnel Update – Mr. Joe Takai, discussed the upcoming deadlines, including IRA in February. EQIP is closed, but applications are being accepted in the event additional funds are available. Ms. Miller explained the November 1-2 Dam to Delta tour was very successful. She also mentioned a conversation with Contra Costa RCD and the potential for partnership.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner’s Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri discussed upcoming training for Proposition 12. She will be trained but it’s unlikely the office will participate in certification. Based on feedback, she will produce weed books, similar to those in Stanislaus. There were over 600 fruit fly detections, normal detection is around 75. Pesticide permits for restricted material are being administered. Continuing education classes are going well. As of January 1, 2024, there will be new regulations in place, including a notification of intent, which will notify neighbors within a mile of an intent to spray. These must be done electronically. Flory in Modesto is working on equipment which will convert chips to bio char. She also noted the 2024 Spray Safe date is February 9. Mr. Koster moved to approve a \$750 sponsorship for the 2024 Spray Safe event. Mrs. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins updated the group that the recently hired executive direct of CARCD, Cam, was no longer with the organization. She noted there is a meeting scheduled for that afternoon to discuss next steps.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – No report.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Mrs. McCoon explained that a Worker’s Comp audit is being completed. Additionally, Collette Hansen, the SJCRCD speech contest winner also won the region and would be going to state. Additionally, the board gave direction for Ms. Watkins to serve as the board delegate for the annual business meeting in December.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Update included in packet.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – No report.
- C. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Covered under Parry Klassen’s presentation.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on November 16, 2023, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Thursday, December 21, 2023, at Dave Wong's Restaurant in Stockton.